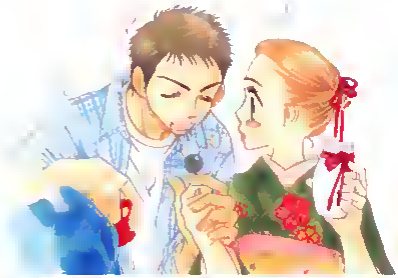
● Hinako Ashihara's FC

Sunadokei ①~③
SOS
Promise
Tennen Bitter Chocolate (3 vol.)
Miss
Derby Queen (3 vol.)
Forbidden Dance (4 vol.)
A Girl's Lesson (3 vol.)
The Best of Hinako Ashihara
① Homemade Home
② In the Room Where Stars Fall



Message from the mangaka

Volume two contains the stories of "Autumn," the season when leaves change colors, and "Spring," the season of cherry blossoms. I went to watch the cherry blossoms with my college friends. It had been a while, and we only watched the flowers for the first five minutes. Then, we got absorbed in eating our lunch. We couldn't stand the cold weather, so we left after that... Argh...

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Cover design by Koji Ootsuka

FLOWER COMICS
Betsucomiフラワーコミックス

砂時計

2

芦原妃名子

Sunadokei 2

HINAKO ASHIHARA

Betsucomi FLOWER COMICS

小学館 FC#402

9784091384027

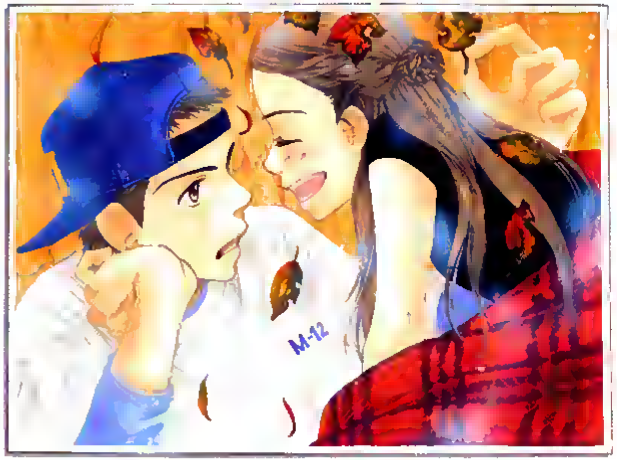
ISBN4-09-138402-1

C9979 ¥390E

1929979003906

定価：本体390円＋税

雑誌 46094-02 小学館



Betsucom フラワーコミックス

● Story

★Ann has been dealing with unfamilar country life and the sudden death of her mother with the help of her grandma and friends. She started going out with her childhood friend, Daigo, and now has a normal life. Although she has the sentimental feeling of love, looks like being fifteen is more like a time for separation...?! Present, past, and future are all connected in this love story, entering its second volume!!

Sunadokei by Hinako Ashihara

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DV: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, lagren1211!

Betsucomi Flower Comics

HINAKO ASHIHARA

Sunadokei 2

HOURGLASS

HOURGLASS

Sunadokei

2

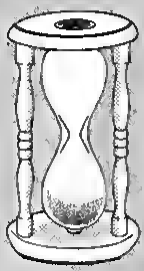
STORY

After her parents' divorce, Ann moved to Shimane with her mother. Although she couldn't get used to life in the country at first, Ann slowly found her own place after she met Daigo and other neighborhood children. After her mother's sudden death, she started going out with Daigo...

CONTENTS

Autumn, 15 years old: Twilight 5

Spring, 16 years old: Cherry Blossoms 107



Shiika Tsukishima Fuji's little sister. Calm and popular with boys.

Fuji Tsukishima Heir of a noble family. Not used to group activities.

Daigo Kitamura Manly and blunt, but kind.

Ann Uekusa Stubborn but naive, like her mother.

● Betsucomi Flower Comics ●

I want to...
...always be by your side.
Uekusa family grave

That's all
I wanted.
M-12
Autumn, 15 years old: Twilight

Parting comes suddenly.
EH?!
TOKYO?!
MY DAD PLANS FOR ME...
...TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE IN TOKYO.
I'VE BEEN STUDYING FOR THAT SINCE I WAS A KID.
YEAH.
I'M GONNA TAKE A HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM THERE.

IT'S ONLY IF I GET ACCEPTED, THOUGH
WAIT...
WAIT!! YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT!!
THERE'S NO NEED TO TELL YOU IF IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED
YOU SHOULD ALSO STUDY HARD
Here, your book.
SWIPE
OW!
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR MY TUTOR TO COME
Go home.
See you later
What?
IF YOU FAIL THE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR S HIGH, THERE'S NO ALTERNATIVE AROUND HERE
TELL DAIGO THAT, TOO

Fuji-kun is leaving!
Hey, wait!!!
After my parents divorced,
my mom brought me to Shimane,
and it's almost been three years.
When my mom died,
it was very hard and sad, but...
I was able to get through it because of all my friends.

All of them, but...
Fuji-kun, Shiika-chan,
Daigo.
NO...
I DON'T WANT TO LOOSE ANY OF THEM!
So sad...
go! go go go!
WOOF! WOOF!!
WAH!!
SO SAD
BA
NG

Check it out!
GAH HA HA
WOOF
WOOF
Urgh
THUD
CLICK
KEITA, TWELVE SECONDS!
HOWL
GAHHH!
Go!
Masayan!
IT'S A RODEO!!
Not with a horse but with a dog.
With Yamada's stupid dog!
You came up with another stupid idea again
I WON'T RIDE THAT STUPID DOG!
MORON!
THE ONE WHO RIDES THE LONGEST GETS JUNK FOOD AS A PRIZE.
AH, YOU'RE SCARED.
CHUCKLE
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?!
WOOF
WOOF
I'M NOT SCARED!
beep
DA...
DAIGO?
What are you doing?
OH, ANN.
Good timing!

I MEAN, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!!!
0.02 SECONDS! The worst score yet!
CLICK
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
GAH
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
DASH
GO! GO!
WA
FUJI?
FROM THAT MOUNTAIN...
...TO THAT MOUNTAIN
HIS FAMILY OWNS IT ALL
WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
THINK ABOUT IT
SHIIKA-CHAN IS FUJI'S SISTER
YEAH, I HEARD FROM SHIIKA THAT HE'S GOING TO TOKYO.
SOB
FUJI-KUN TOLD ME SO SUDDENLY.
He was so cold...
GAH
Wahahaha

HE'LL INHERIT ALL OF IT EVENTU-ALLY.
HIS DAD IS EXPANDING HIS BUSINESS,
AND HIS FAMILY IS A LONG STANDING NOBLE ONE
SO, HE CAN'T BE FOOLING AROUND WITH US FOREVER.
Stare
Ah, hey!
I mean...
YEAH, I KNOW, BUT...
DAIGO!
Hurry up!
AH!

HEY, DO YOU LIKE THAT FUJI PERSON?
EH?
I DO LIKE HIM, BUT...
AH, NO, NO...
HE'S ONLY A FRIEND.
ACTUALLY,
THE ONE I REALLY LIKE IS...
HM...
blush
...THAT GUY.

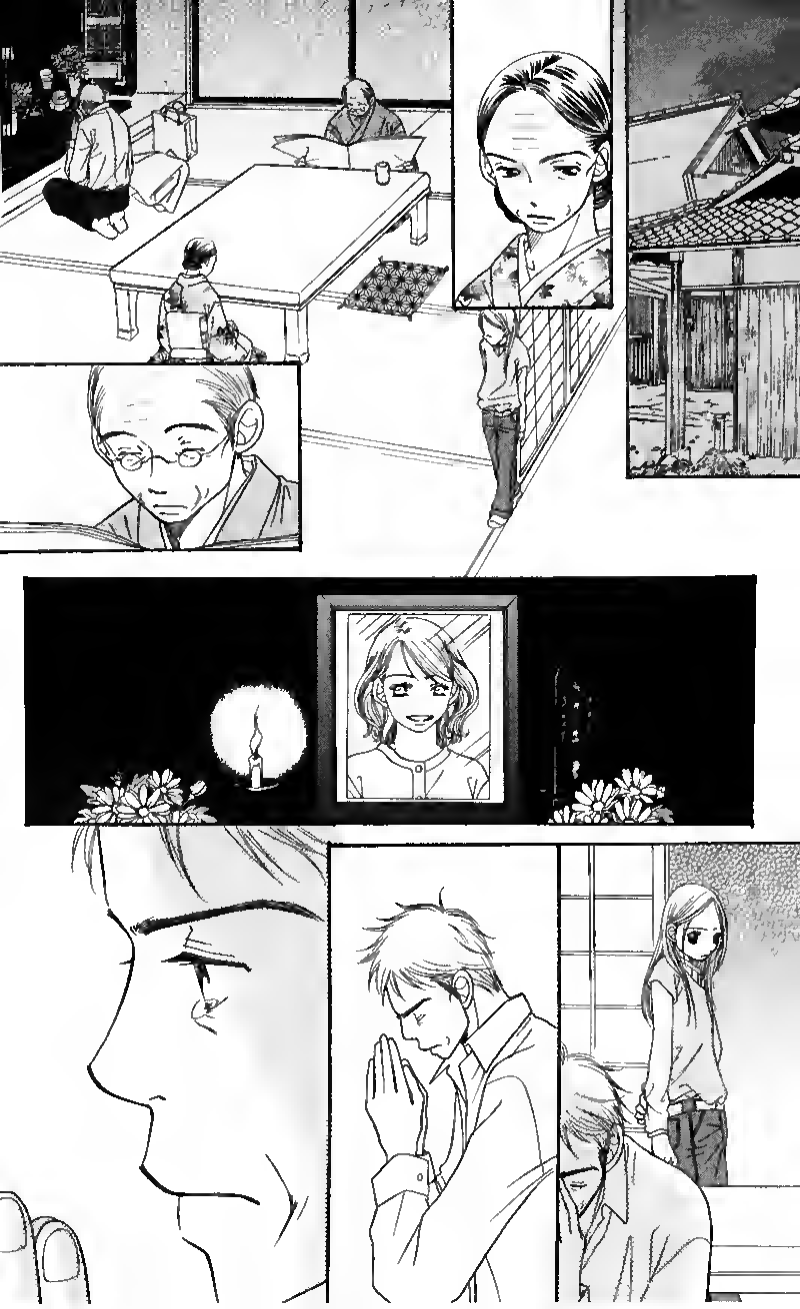
thump
whisper
RUN
RUN
whisper
HE SAID, "I KNOW."
Yeah?
That's not interesting!
Autumn, 15 years old.

Slowly but surely,
time is changing our relationships.
WOW!
Cool!
WHAT A HUGE SUNSET!
THE DAYS ARE GETTING SHORTER

HUH?
GRAB
Here

I wish...
...this moment would last forever.
BUN
go.

ANN...?
a change has suddenly come.
DAD...!
However,

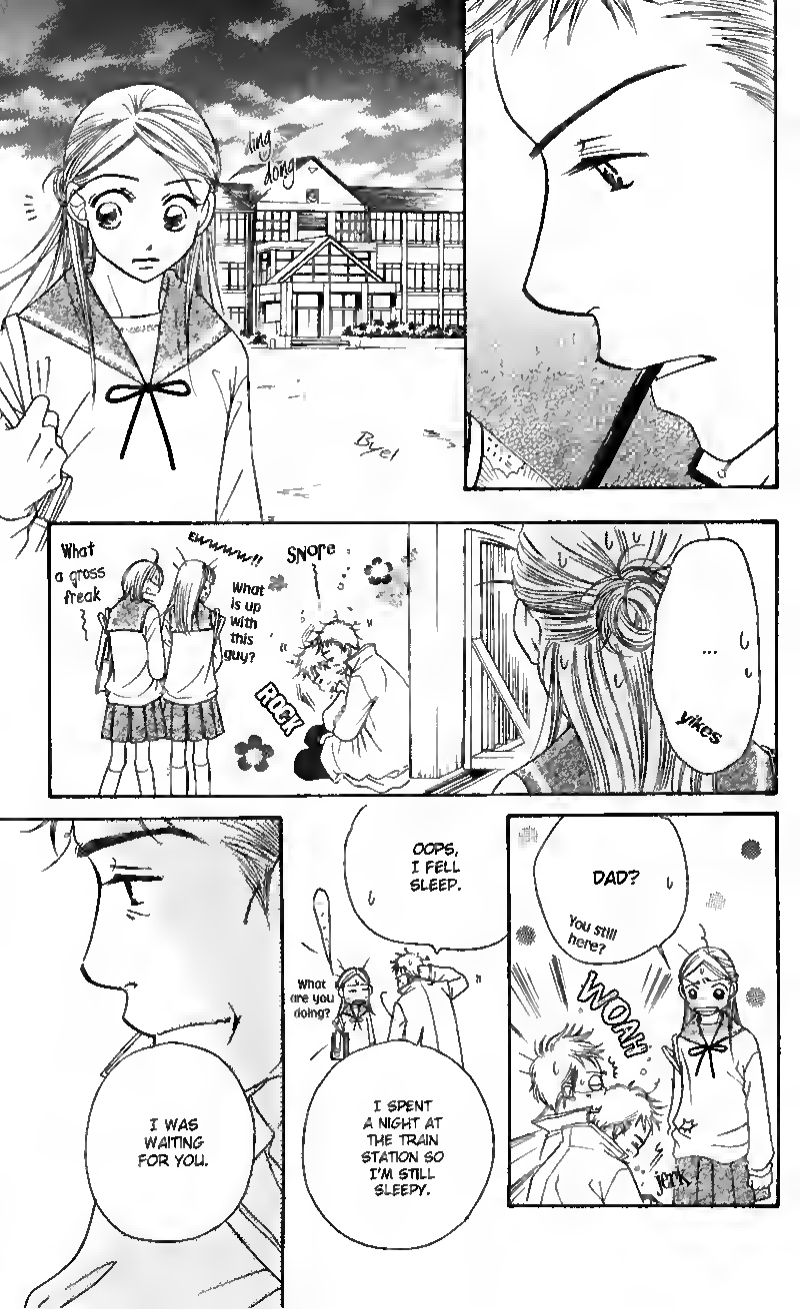


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...!
AH...
shit
YES.
IT HAS BEEN ABOUT SEVENTEEN YEARS, RIGHT?
SINCE THE DAY YOU TOOK MIWAKO FROM THIS VILLAGE,
AGAINST MY WILL.
I SENT YOU A MESSAGE THAT SHE DIED, BUT...
ALTHOUGH YOU WERE DIVORCED, NOT ONCE IN THESE THREE YEARS DID YOU COME TO OFFER HER EVEN ONE INCENSE STICK. .

ANN!
BRING ME THE SALT!
SO WHAT MADE YOU THINK YOU CAN VISIT US NOW?
CRASH
GRAB
RUSH
CLATTER CLATTER CRUSH
CRUSH
CRASH
I'LL CRUSH YOUR HEAD !!!!
GRANDMA!! THAT'S NOT THE CORRECT USE OF—

BA
NG!
stomp stomp stomp stomp
3-1
ding dong
ANN-CHAN!!
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE GOING BACK TO TOKYO?!
IF YOU WERE TO LEAVE THIS VILLAGE AS WELL, ANN-CHAN...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY BRO, BUT...
I... I'LL... I'LL BE...
SO SAD!!
Hey!
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT YOUR DAD CAME TO PICK YOU UP!
Oh, it's Tsukishima-san from the sophomore class.
SHIIKA-CHAN
What is it all of a sudden?

REALLY?
MY GRANDMA KICKED MY DAD OUT OF THE HOUSE LAST NIGHT.
UHUHUHU
OH, NO.
heh
I'M NOT LEAVING.
ugh
YEAH, RIGHT!
IN REALITY YOU'RE PROBABLY RELIEVED!
You're cold.
TOO BAD. I THOUGHT WE COULD GO TO TOKYO TOGETHER.
FUJI-KUN!
HEY!
Shut up, ■ol
GYA
GYA!
I'M STILL ANGRY WITH YOU!!
What? Tsukishima-kun is going to Tokyo?
OK, sorry


ding dong
Bye!
What a gross freak
EWWWWW!!
What is up with this guy?
SNore
ROAR
...
yikes
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
What are you doing?
OOPS, I FELL SLEEP.
I SPENT A NIGHT AT THE TRAIN STATION SO I'M STILL SLEEPY.
DAD?
You still here?
WOAH!
KICK

rustle
AH.
I WANTED TO GO VISIT MOM'S GRAVE WITH YOU.
Here.
SNIFF
CHOCOLATE COSMOS!
Smells just like chocolate.
DID YOU BUY THEM?
THERE ARE A LOT OF COSMOS AROUND HERE IN THE WILD.
You didn't have to buy them
I SEE.
"I WANT DIFFERENT KINDS OF COSMOS ON EVERY SINGLE BIRTHDAY OF MINE"
Like a queen.
ah ha ha
YEAH, YOU WERE RUNNING AROUND TOKYO TO FIND FLOWERS EVERY YEAR
MOM WAS PICKY ABOUT HER FLOWERS.

植草家之墓
IT'S
MY MOM'S BIRTHDAY.
I forgot about it.
light
sploosh
splash
It's going
It's going

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET...
...WHEN I FIRST MET YOUR MOM
IT WAS AN EVENING LIKE THIS...
I WAS STILL A COLLEGE STUDENT.
AND MY FRIEND AND I WERE TAKING A CAR TRIP WHEN WE GOT LOST IN THIS VILLAGE.
THE CAR BROKE DOWN,
Hey, what do we do now?
bururuu
AND WE WERE STUCK UNTIL...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH,
WHERE IS THE NEAREST REPAIR SHOP?
SIX MILES FROM HERE.
yikes
OH, NO! WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A PLACE TO STAY
I'LL GO GET SOMEONE!
AND FIND YOU A PLACE TO STAY!!
PLEASE WAIT HERE!
WHISH
PEDAL PEDAL PEDAL PEDAL
Ah.
SHE WAS VERY EFFICIENT AND FAST.
I was amazed...
Hmmm...

SO, THE NEXT DAY,
I WAS VERY SURPRISED WHEN I SAW HER.
IT WAS REALLY DARK, SO I COULDN'T SEE HER FACE
IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
WHAT?
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SO BEAUTIFUL.
I'm just surprised.
EH?
what
UM...
Thank you for everything.
?
DO YOU NEED DIRECTIONS?
I can give them to you
THE CAR WILL BE DONE BY THIS AFTERNOON.

*Manyoushuu (Collection of Ten Thousand Leaves") is the oldest existing, and most highly revered, collection of Japanese poetry, compiled sometime in the Nara or early Heian periods"

BACK THEN I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT THAT..
I WOULD MAKE HER HAPPY FOREVER
*Note: "Tasogare" is defined as "dusk" or "twilight". It's a word that's normally only used in poems and songs. The origin of "tasogare" is "toso, kare", meaning "Who is there?" (the line from previous page's poetry), which is often said during dusk/twilight since it's hard to make out the faces of people.
THAT'S WHERE THE WORD "TASOGARE"* COMES FROM, CAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE PEOPLE'S FACES WELL AT TWILIGHT.
DIDN'T YOU LEARN IT AT SCHOOL?
I DON'T KNOW IT.
IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
THOSE ARE..
..EMPTY WORDS NOW.
BUT YOU DIDN'T.

WHEN ARE YOU GOING BACK TO TOKYO?
AH,
TONIGHT, ON THE LAST TRAIN...
I HAVE TO WORK TOMORROW...
CLUNK
I SEE
TAKE CARE.
ANN.

WHY DON'T YOU...
...COME TO TOKYO AND LIVE WITH ME AGAIN?
I'VE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY OFF MY DEBTS.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEXT YEAR
IT'S GOOD TIMING.
ACTUALLY, I CAME TO SHIMANE TO ASK YOU THIS.
QUENCH

I LIKE THIS VILLAGE.
...DAD, I...
AND THE GUY I LOVE.
HERE ARE MY DEAR GRANDPA AND GRANDMA, MY FRIENDS,
BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE.
EVERY-ONE WAS THERE BY MY SIDE AND SUPPORTED ME...
WHEN MOM COMMITTED SUICIDE...
WHEN I WAS SO DEPRESSED THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY-MORE...

YOU LEFT ME ALONE!!
DON'T TELL ME SUCH A SELFISH THING!!
SO...

dash
SAY "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" ON MY CUE.
GOT THAT?
*Happy Birthday Mom!
CAN WE REALLY MANAGE TO SAY IT IN SYNC?
YES, WE CAN!
We practiced so much for it!
Jump
URGH, I AM SO NERVOUS.
RING
SHE'S HERE!!
CLICK
MOM!!
Happy Birthday!!
With lots of love!

I NEED YOUR SIGNATURE...
HAHA
AH...
WE CAN PAY OFF THE DEBT QUICKLY TOGETHER!!
IT'S GOING TO BE FINE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIVORCE MOM, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIVORCE MOM, ARE YOU?

DON'T LEAVE MOM!
PLEASE, DAD...
pat
Dad!!
DASH DASH
WOOF WOOF
ANN...?

UWAAAAAAAAA...
AH...

JR
ring
RATTLE
shut
WHISTLE
THE TRAIN IS ABOUT TO LEAVE
ring
"YOU LEFT ME ALONE!!"
Actually,

I didn't want to tell him...
...such an awful thing.

~ 15 Years old Autumn -✧-

About this story

It's already the second volume. Thank you very much for reading it. When this comic comes out, it'll be almost the end of 2003. It's been so quick.

-✧-

I actually tried the dog rodeo when I was a kid, just like how it's depicted in the story. I had a big dog. I was dropped immediately and was very scared. I was supposed to ride it well, but I was an idiot.

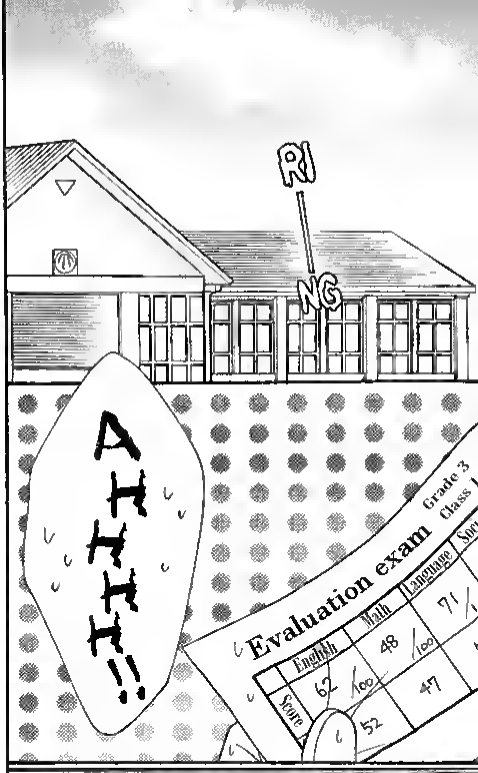
-✧-

Twilight→Tasogare
Who's there?
It's sounds so elegant.

Lately, I've been so amazed at how beautiful the Japanese language is.

It's already sentimental enough for it to be twilight, but it's set in autumn on top of that.

I like both twilight and autumn.



NEXT!
FUJI!!
Shocked
MY SCORES ARE BETTER THAN DAIGO'S
Hey!
OOOOH
YOU GOT THE TOP SCORE IN THE WHOLE PREFECTUR E.
How so many books.
Don't be stingy, Tsukishima.
Ah, thank you.
I HAVE TO STUDY FOR AN EXAM, TOO!!
EH? WHY NOT? THAT WAY YOU CAN TEACH US
...DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE A STUDY GROUP AT MY PLACE?
BUT WHY...

DON'T GO TO TOKYO.
LET'S GO TO SHIMANE'S HIGH SCHOOL.
Yeah, Tsukishima-kun!
DON'T DECIDE ON MY FUTURE FOR ME!
Excuse me, can I have more juice?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'LL GO TO THE HIGH SCHOOL HERE IF YOU FAIL THE ONE IN TOKYO.
Got it?
ANN, YOU'RE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH MY STUDYING, HUH?
Fuji-kun, explain this to me!
I WANT TO GO TO IZUMO SHRINE.
It's a popular place
PUSH
Oh, yeah!
WE HAVE TO STUDY FOR THE EXAM.
It's not like you're studying!
You're reading comics!
IT'S CLOSE TO A TRAIN STATION LET'S GO THERE ON OUR NEXT HOLIDAY!!
For a day-long trip!
AH, I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE FOR FUN!
I'm so bored with studying.
FLIP
FLIP

AFTER THE EXAM, THEN.
REALLY?
PROMISE ME!
GIVE ME YOUR FINGER!!
Good luck on the exam!
STOP FORCING YOURSELF TO BE SO CHEERFUL.
I KNOW YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH THE IDEA
OF WHETHER YOU SHOULD GO LIVE WITH YOUR DAD OR NOT.

I'M NOT STRUGGLING.
I ONLY WANT YOU TO BE BY MY SIDE!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE BY MY SIDE IT'S ENOUGH....!
I really...

I really think so.
ZA
ZA

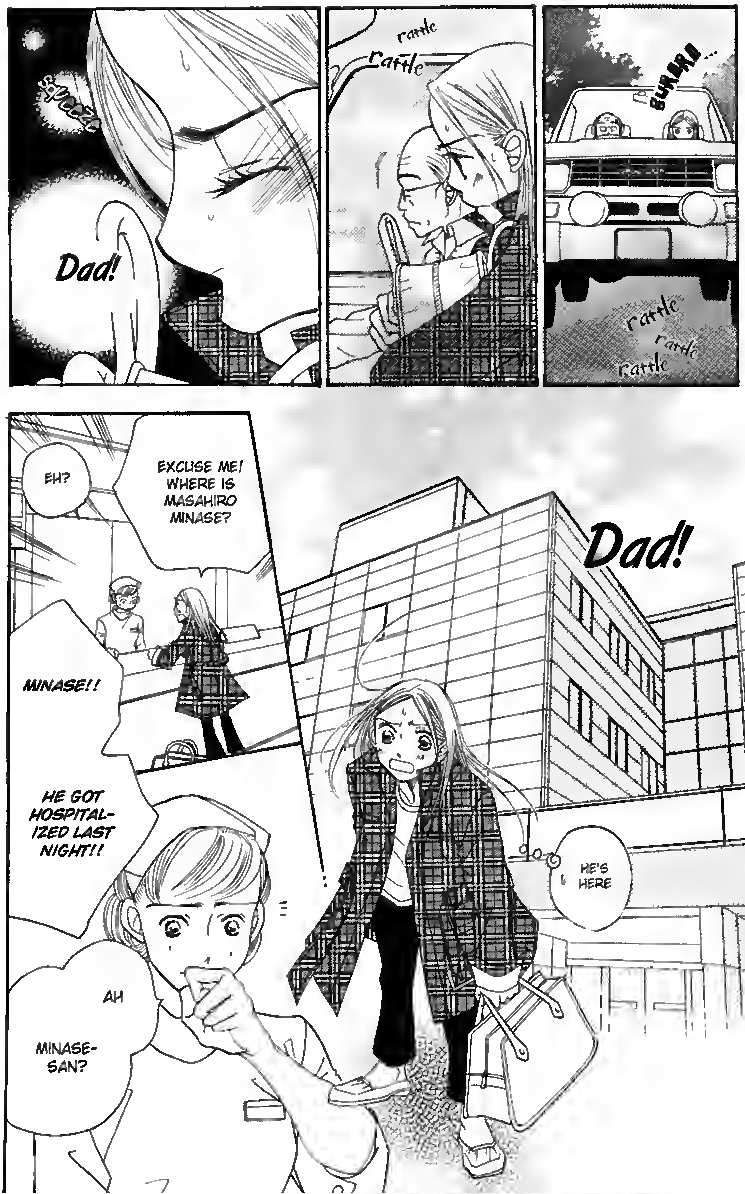
"... ALWAYS BE WITH YOU."
"I WILL..."
...
"COME TO TOKYO AND LIVE WITH ME AGAIN?"
"WHY, DON'T YOU...?"
ring ring ring...
GRANDMA? SHE'S NOT HERE?
Is she taking out the trash?
ring ring ring...
ring ring ring...
HELLO, UEKUSA—

I'M
YOUR FATHER'S FRIEND, KUROKI
?
YES ...?
ANN-CHAN?
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU DIRECTIONS TO A HOSPITAL COME QUICKLY
YOUR DAD HAD AN ACCIDENT.

I'M GOING TO TOKYO!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ANN ...?
SQUEAK
DAD FELL AND INJURED HIMSELF!!
HUH?
I have to go get my money!
THAT'S THE NUMBERS FOR THE HOSPITAL AND DAD'S FRIEND!!
It was a woman!
THAT'S THE QUICKEST WAY...
I'M GOING ON A NIGHT TRAIN!
PLEASE! I NEED TO GO!!
HEY, WAIT, ANN!!
hospital
03-71XX
Kaede Kuroki
090-25XX

HELLO, IT'S KUROKI
AH.
ring ring ring
ring ring ring
click
click

AH!
GRANDMA ...!
SLIDE
YIKES!
ONLY 4,525 YEN*!!
*40 dollars
TAKE THIS.
¥100,000
DO...
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT'LL COST TO GO TO TOKYO?
thump
thump
!
GRANDMA!
CAN YOU GO BY YOURSELF?
YEAH!!
OK.
GRANDPA CAN TAKE YOU TO THE STATION.
HURRY UP.

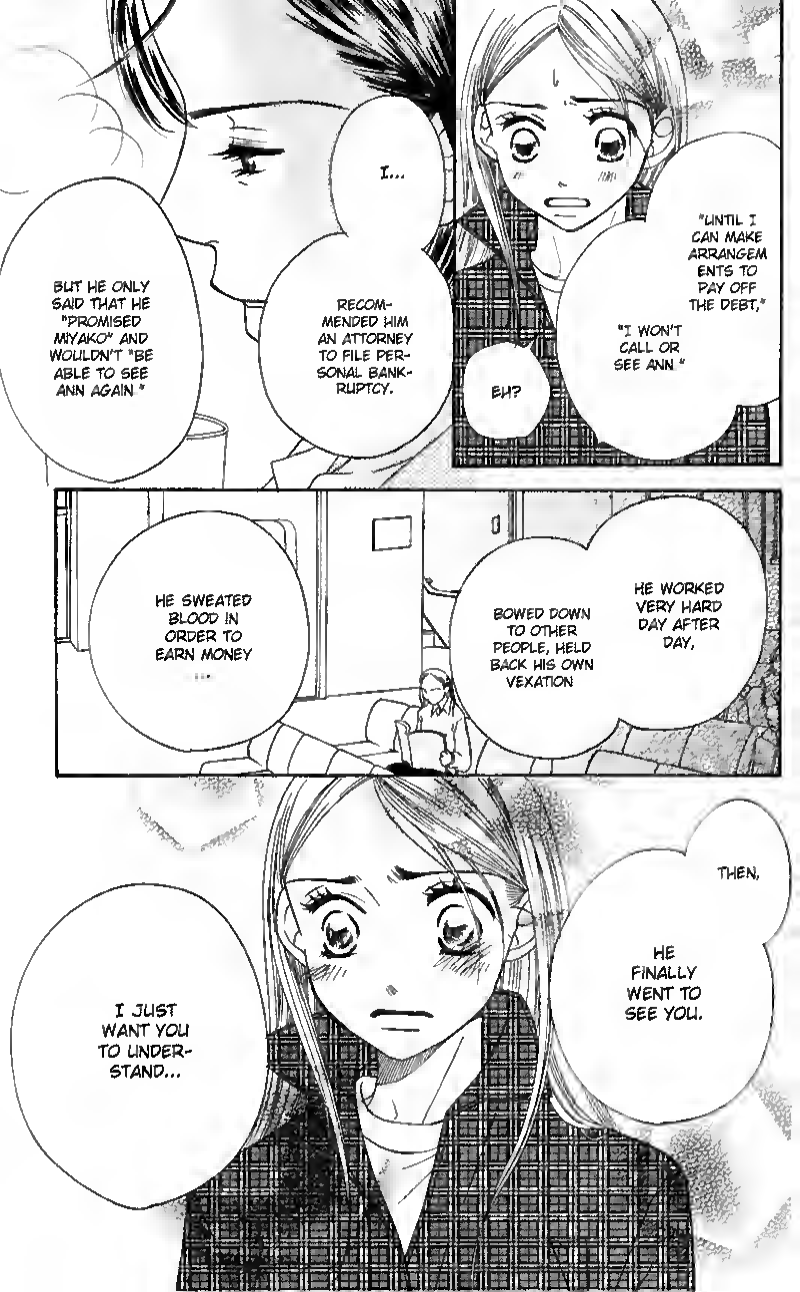

Dad!
rattle
rattle
BYUUU...
rattle
rattle
rattle
Dad!
EXCUSE ME! WHERE IS MASAHIRO MINASE?
EH?
MINASE!!
HE GOT HOSPITAL-IZED LAST NIGHT!!
AH
MINASE-SAN?
HE'S HERE

Huh?
HE TRIPPED IN THE BATHROOM AND ONLY GOT A BUMP ON HIS HEAD.
HAHA
He's just getting it checked just in case
WHAT?!
BANG
DAD!!
...EH?
ANN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
DON'T ACT SO INNO-CENT!!
HOW AWFUL!
SO YOU CAME.
WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING, SENDING THAT KIND OF MESSAGE?!

KA-
KAEDE?!
I MADE A PHONE CALL BY MYSELF.
I'M A DOCTOR HERE A FRIEND OF YOUR DAD'S ♡
KUROKI KAEDE.
AH! AHHP OH.M'Y!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
SLAP
YOU DID IT INTENTION-ALLY!!
HOW DARE YOU! YOU'RE A DOCTOR!!
WAHHHHHHH!!
FLAIL
FLAIL
SQUEEZE
FLAIL
FLAIL
STOP!!
FAINT
tsk
What a brat!
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME IF I HADN'T SAID THAT.

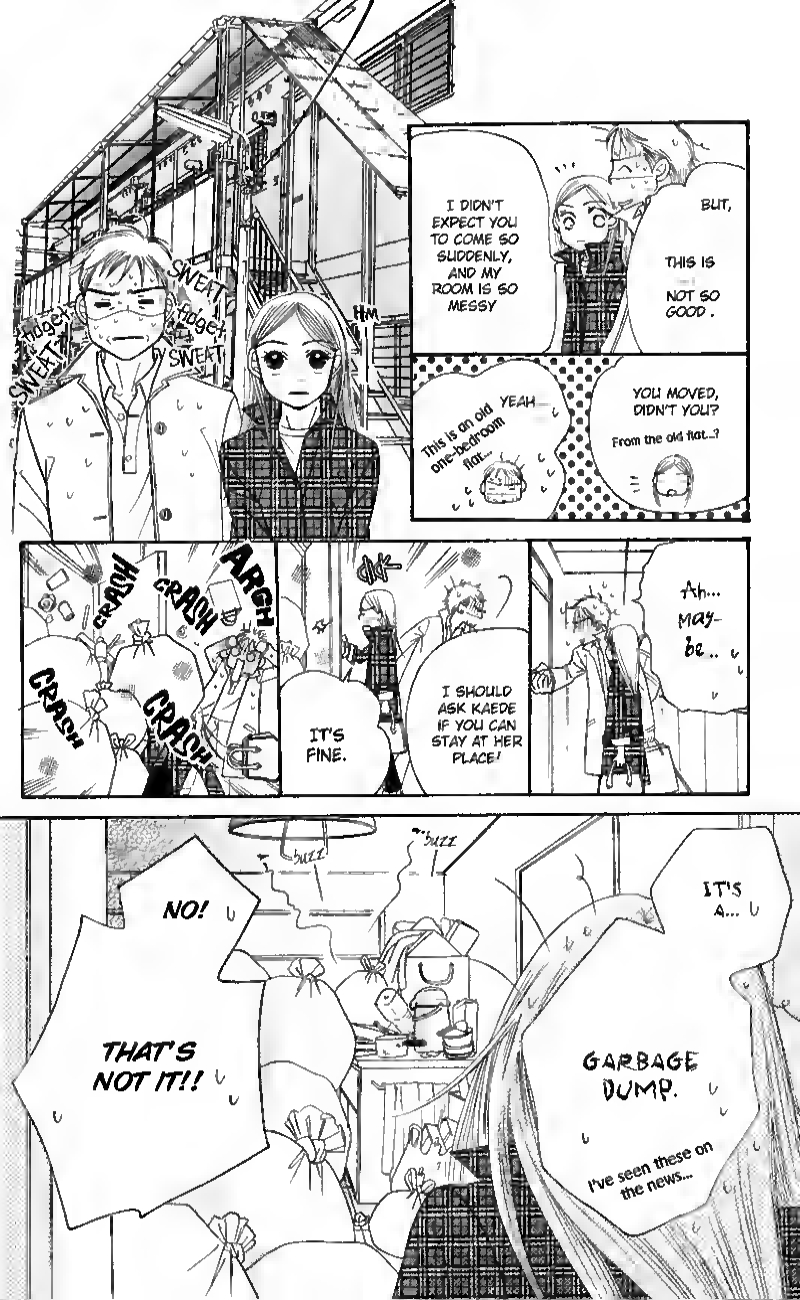
GASP
Are you all right?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE I IMAGINED: STUBBORN AND RUDE.
WHOSE GENES ARE THOSE, I WONDER.
HAHA
Congrats on your quick recovery.
Thank you.
DID YOU KNOW MY MOM?
SO, I'VE SEEN YOUR MOM, MIWAKO-SAN, SEVERAL TIMES
I'VE KNOWN MINASE-KUN SINCE HIGH SCHOOL .
AH.
BECAUSE ...
SHE WAS BEAU-TIFUL
. .AND WEAK.

HE LOST HIS BUSINESS, GOT IN A LOT OF DEBT, FOUGHT WITH YOUR MOM AND DIVORCED HER
YOUR MOM GOT HURT AND YOU GOT HURT.
DO YOU FEEL OBLIGATED TO BE COLD TO YOUR DAD BECAUSE OF YOUR MOM?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
BUT, WHEN YOUR MOM COMMITTED SUICIDE,
I THINK YOUR DAD GOT HURT THE MOST AND BLAMED HIMSELF THE MOST.
...
MINASE-KUN
PROMISED YOUR MOM BEFORE SHE DIED,


I...
BUT HE ONLY SAID THAT HE "PROMISED MIYAKO" AND WOULDN'T "BE ABLE TO SEE ANN AGAIN."
RECOMMENDED HIM AN ATTORNEY TO FILE PERSONAL BANKRUPTCY.
EH?
"UNTIL I CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY OFF THE DEBT,"
"I WON'T CALL OR SEE ANN."
HE SWEATED BLOOD IN ORDER TO EARN MONEY...
BOWED DOWN TO OTHER PEOPLE, HELD BACK HIS OWN VEXATION
HE WORKED VERY HARD DAY AFTER DAY,
I JUST WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND...
THEN,
HE FINALLY WENT TO SEE YOU.

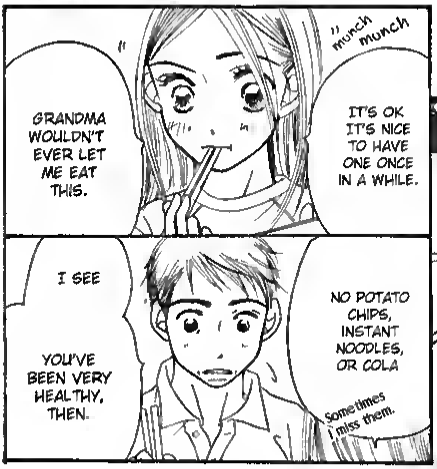
CAN YOU LIVE WITH YOUR DAD?
YOU'LL LEAVE HIM SOMEDAY, ANYWAY.
BUT UNTIL THEN,
AT LEAST FOR THREE YEARS WHILE YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL,
CAN'T YOU GIVE HIM ONE LAST CHANCE?!
YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ...
...THAT HE CARES ABOUT YOU SO MUCH THAT
HE WENT TO SHIMANE MANY TIMES DESPITE OF HIM-SELF...
KAEDE!

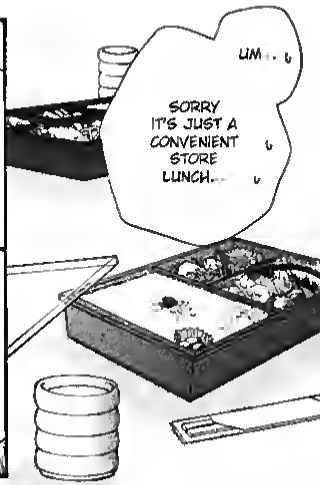
ANN, STAY AT MY APARTMENT TONIGHT.
Is that all of your luggage?
I CALLED YOUR GRANDMA AND EXPLAINED IT ALL TO HER.
She sounded like she knew something...
THAT'S ENOUGH.
BUT...
I THINK SHE'S NICE.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN MEDDLE-SOME
I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS WEIRD WHEN SHE FORCED ME TO STAY AT THE HOSPITAL TO GET SOME TESTS
She tricked me—
YEAH.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT KAEDE SAID.

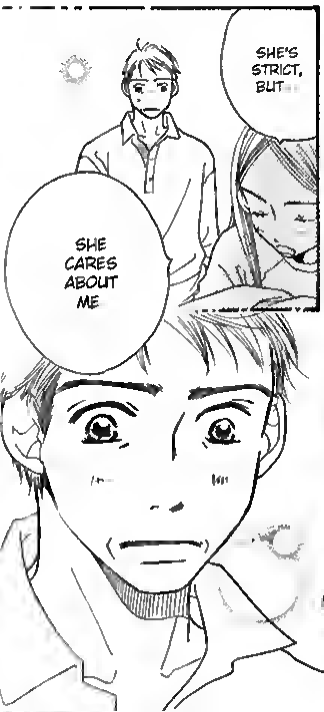

Fidget
SWEAT
Fidget
SWEAT
Fidget
SWEAT
HM
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO COME SO SUDDENLY, AND MY ROOM IS SO MESSY
BUT, THIS IS NOT SO GOOD.
YEAH
This is an old one-bedroom flat...
YOU MOVED, DIDN'T YOU?
From the old flat...?
CRASH
CRASH
ARGH
CRASH
CRASH
IT'S FINE.
I SHOULD ASK KAEDE IF YOU CAN STAY AT HER PLACE!
Ah... maybe..
BUZZ
BUZZ
NO!
THAT'S NOT IT!!
IT'S A...
GARBAGE DUMP.
I've seen these on the news...

WOW...
BOXED LUNCHES FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE...
I don't want to eat this...
Hey, don't open that!
SCURR
I JUST FORGOT TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH LAST WEEK AND THE WEEK BEFORE AND THE WEEK BEFORE THAT AND...
IT'S USUALLY A LITTLE BIT BETTER!
SLIDE
OH!
THAT ROOM IS...
DON'T YOU HAVE A JAPANESE STYLED ROOM OVER THERE?
Or is it even messier?
YIKES!
WHY DO YOU HAVE YOUR FUTON IN THE DINING AREA?!
pat pat
It's clean!
?
WELL...
WHY ARE YOU NOT USING THIS ROOM?
It's...
...!
WOW.

This is...
It's my desk.
I used to have this.
...“my room”...


munch munch
IT'S OK IT'S NICE TO HAVE ONE ONCE IN A WHILE.
GRANDMA WOULDN'T EVER LET ME EAT THIS.
I SEE
YOU'VE BEEN VERY HEALTHY, THEN.
NO POTATO CHIPS, INSTANT NOODLES, OR COLA
Sometimes I miss them.


UM...
SORRY IT'S JUST A CONVENIENT STORE LUNCH...


SHE'S STRICT, BUT...
SHE CARES ABOUT ME

AH, ANN, HOW DID YOU LEARN THESE SKILLS?
It's no big deal...
GRANDMA TAUGHT ME.
She's strict.

rustle
rustle

briskly

ANN...
YOU MIGHT BE HAPPIER IF YOU STAYED IN SHIMANE.
THE AIR IS CLEANER, AND IT'S ...
BETTER THAN LIFE IN THIS CROWDED TOKYO
MAYBE ...
ARE YOU LONELY?
...
NO.
...
shift
DAD.

ANN,
IF YOU DECIDE TO LIVE WITH ME BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME,
THAT'S NOT A GOOD REASON.
A CHILD SHOULDN'T BE WORRYING ABOUT HER PARENT.
ANN, JUST THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN HAPPINESS.
GO TO SLEEP.
Good night.
The tears...

BE CAREFUL, THEN.
SAY HELLO TO GRANDMA FOR ME.
YEAH
I'LL CALL YOU.
DAD.
UM...
HM?
I...
I can't stop the tears from flowing...

I ACTUALLY...
...KNEW THAT YOU CAME TO SHIMANE SEVERAL TIMES.
I KNEW IT, BUT I STILL PRETENDED THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE.
EVERY YEAR, ON MOM'S BIRTHDAY
I NOTICED THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF COSMOS THAT WERE THERE.

ANN.
SORRY!
I...
WHEREVER YOU ARE, I'M YOUR DAD.
CLUNK
LET ME KNOW WHENEVER YOU NEED HELP,
OK?

Why?
Why are there so many important things?
rattle
rattle

"AT LEAST FOR THREE YEARS WHILE YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL,"
"CAN'T YOU GIVE HIM ONE LAST CHANCE?!"
Daigo.

Daigo.
HUH? DAIGO?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
YOUR GRANDMA TOLD ME.
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
It's already started.
I CAN GO TO SCHOOL ANYTIME.

HERE
Give me your luggage
...
DAIGO.
I...
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.

I WANT TO...
...BE WITH YOU ALL THE TIME...
BUT ...

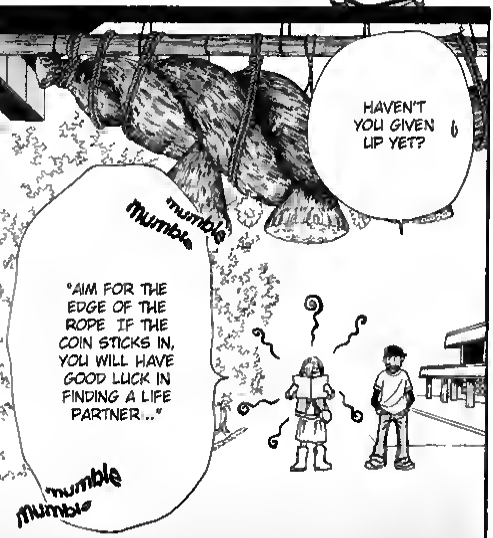
LET'S GO TO IZUMO.
NEXT WEEKEND,
ANN,

rattle
rattle
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GO.
Izumo Tai
I DON'T WANNA GO...
WORN OUT
No choice!
MATSUE, MATSUE
AND YAEGAKI SHRINE'S MIRROR POND FORTUNE TELLING!!
TO DO IZUMO SHRINE'S ROPE FORTUNE TELLING!!
SIGH
AH, YAEGAKI SHRINE IS AT MATSUE STATION!

奉献 八重垣神社
mumble mumble mumble mumble mumble mumble
山陰
秋のおすすめ スポット
"IF THE COIN SINKS QUICKLY, YOU WILL GET MARRIED SOON, BUT IF IT SINKS SLOWLY..."
"YOU'LL HAVE A LATE MARRIAGE ?!"
Noooo!
AH, TO DO THE "MIRROR POND FORTUNE TELLING," YOU CHECK YOUR MARRIAGE FORTUNE BY SEEING HOW FAST A COIN ON A PIECE OF PAPER SINKS.
tick tock tick tock
5 minutes later
HEY
float... float
tick tock tick tock
10 minutes later
thump thump
float... float
thump thump
tock tick tock tick
5 minutes later
thump thump
float... float
thump thump
LET'S TRY IT!!
Please sink!
toss
float
float...

YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME THAT EARLIER!
One yen coin, come back!!
Yaegaki Shrine
A one yen coin won't sink.
IT SAYS USING A ONE YEN COIN WON'T WORK.
Use a ten yen or a hundred yen coin.
*Note: *Note: One yen is roughly a penny, ten yen is roughly a dime, and hundred yen a dollar.

LET'S GO EAT SOBA NOODLES!!
I'M HUNGRY
Izumo soba!!
WEAK
WEAK
WEAK
WEAK
LATE?
LATE, HUH...
mumble
mumble

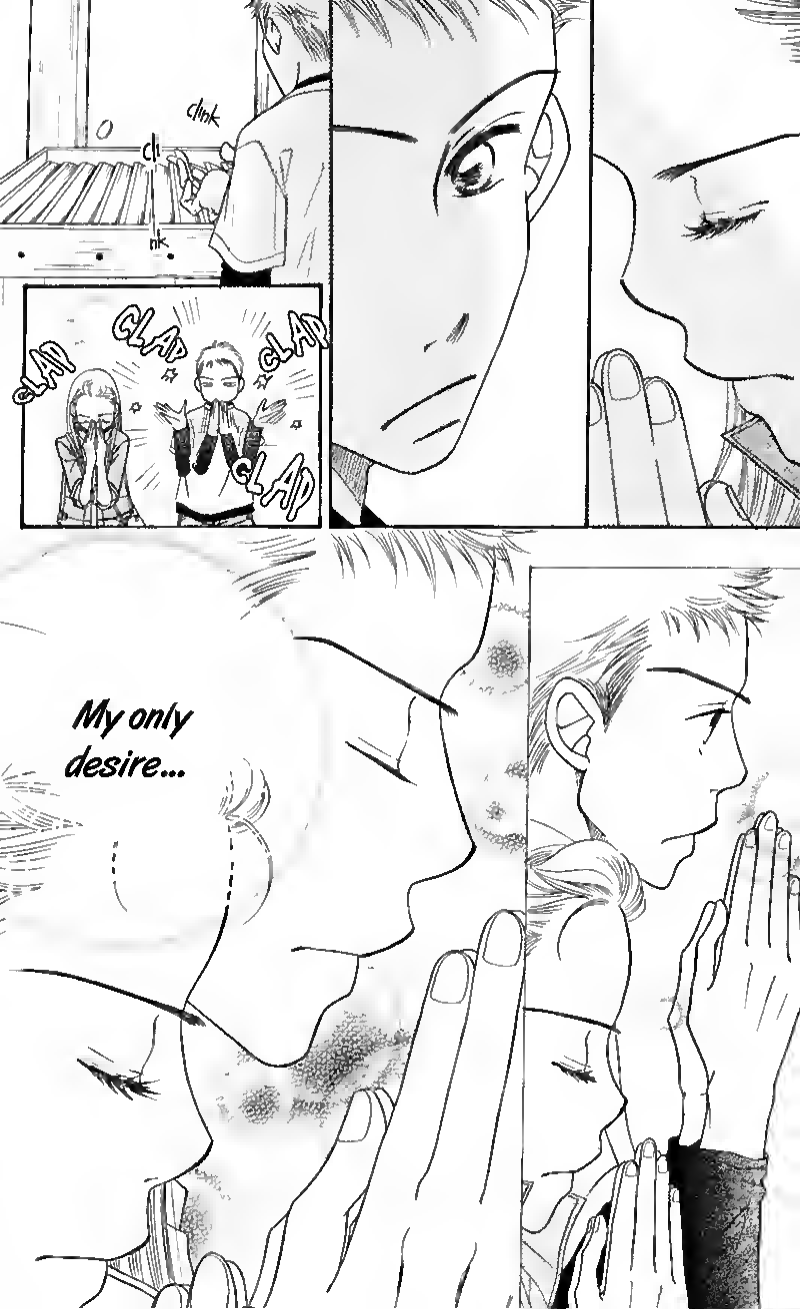

HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN UP YET?
mumble
mumble
"AIM FOR THE EDGE OF THE ROPE IF THE COIN STICKS IN, YOU WILL HAVE GOOD LUCK IN FINDING A LIFE PARTNER..."
mumble
mumble

HEY, I'D LIKE A "SOBA GAKI"!!
Add it to the bill!
I'M GOING TO HAVE A LATE MARRIAGE
OK!
It's good!

HEY...
出雲大社

GO!!
clink
toss
TADA
I BEG OF YOU, FIVE YEN-CHAN!!
?
REGAIN YOUR HONOR!!
EVERY-ONE ELSE'S LUCK IS FALLING OFF, TOO!
GAH
clink clink clink
CLATTER
POUR POUR POUR POUR
SO WHAT CAN GODS DO?
SPELLS AND FORTUNE TELLING WON'T WORK, ANYWAY,
URGH
Is it the way I throw it?
IT COUNTS ON HOW SERIOUS I AM!!
clink clink clink clink
hey! hey! hey! hey!
THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS...
Women...
ARGH...

IF I THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH I WANT MY WISHES TO COME TRUE,
THEN I CAN OPEN THE DOOR TO MY FUTURE!!
Hop!
swish
stick
Ah!
I got it!!
You!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
bow twice. clap four times. bow once
WHAT IS IT
THAT YOU WANT TO COME TRUE SO BADLY?
...HEY,
IT'S A SECRET.


clink
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
My only desire...

...is this. It's been the same for three years.
I want to always always always be with Daigo.
Ann
WOW, IT'S BEAUTI-FUL.
Annnn!

EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN HERE FOR THREE YEARS
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE SEEN THE OCEAN AFTER MOVING TO SHIMANE
LET'S GO HOME.
...
IT'S GETTING DARK.

I wish...
...this day was longer.
Pat
I'LL WAIT HERE.
Squeak

I wish that time would stop.
HELLO, DAD?
IT'S ME...
ring ring ring
ring ring ring...
click
Minase Masahiro
03-3816-22XX
Tokyo . .

I'VE DECIDED ...
Just while I go to high school...
I've decided...
...to go to Tokyo and live with my dad.

WHY?! YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULDN'T GO!!
WHAT?!!!
I'LL BE BACK AFTER I GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
I'M GOING TO VISIT DURING THE HOLIDAYS, TOO.
It's not a big deal.
BUT!!
IT'S LIKE!!
NOOOOO!!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, BRO!!
Heh heh
IT'S GETTING WEIRD...
WHY IS THAT?!
NOOOOOO...
AWK-
CHAN!
ARE YOU MOVING SOON?
YEAH. MY DAD'S FRIEND WILL NEED TO TUTOR ME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
I NEED TO STUDY REALLY HARD TO GET INTO THE SCHOOL I WANT

WHAT DID DAIGO SAY?
NO-THING.
I GUESS IT'LL BE NICE THAT YOU'LL COME TO TOKYO, TOO.
Heh heh
I'M SELFISH.
But I'll be waiting for you there
This isn't goodbye forever...
IT'S OK.
UWA
JR
Our hearts won't be separated from each other.

YOU, TOO, NAKA-CHAN!!
Call me!!
ANN, TAKE CARE!!
Don't cry, Tsukishima-san!!
WAAAH!!
SHIKA-CHAN, YOU'RE CRYING TOO MUCH!
Your cute face is ruined.
...more than you like your grandparents?!
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT US?
You like your dad...
SHOCK
Squeeze...
BUT...
I HATE THE GUY WHO MADE MIWAKO UNHAPPY,
I THANK HIM FOR
GIVING YOU TO US.
I LOVE YOU, GRANDMA !!
I CAN'T COMPARE YOU TO ANYONE
SOB

Kuroki-san?
How did you know?
Say hi to the aggressive doctor for me
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HER?
OR ARE YOU JUST A WIMP?
ARE YOU THAT CONFIDENT?
NEITHER.

I WAS GOING TO GIVE UP ON HER COMPLETELY ONCE I MOVED TO TOKYO.
Don't cry.
ACTUALLY,
I'D INTENDED TO GET SOME CLOSURE ON THIS
BUT WHAT?!
Don't stop there !!!
DAIGO!
GIVE UP ON WHO?
BUT,
What should I do now?

Ah!
HEY
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HERE!
dash dash dash dash
THAT GUY ...!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
?
HIT AND RUN
!!
*Marriage Luck
MAYBE YOU DON'T LIKE IT, AND...
MAYBE IT'LL GIVE YOU SOME PEACE OF MIND.
keep it
blush
I GOT IT AT IZUMO SHRIME,
SECRETLY

HEY!
What?
What?
Squeeze...
THEY ARE ALL WATCHING US!
Wait, wait!
Shuffle
Shuffle
I DON'T CARE.
WITHDRAWAL
Hey...
I'LL BE BACK AFTER THREE YEARS!!
I'm gonna find a job here!
SO...
I'LL SAVE MONEY TO VISIT YOU!!
I'LL WRITE TO YOU EVERYDAY AND CALL YOU!!
I...

THE TRAIN IS ABOUT TO LEAVE
ANN!
Let's go!
Her dad→ come to pick her up
RING RING RING RING RING

bump
step
ROLL..
THIS ...
...
ANN ..
AH!
EH?
Your hour-glass
YOU DROPPED THIS.
OH, NO!
Whoa, what am I doing?!

YOU SAID,
"I WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU."
YOU GAVE IT TO ME.
I RE-MEMBER THAT.
I'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK TO SEE YOU SOON!!
I RE-MEMBER THAT.

RING RING RING RING RING
I WILL NEVER
LET YOU BECOME A MEMORY...
My vow to him...
...was drowned out by the sound of the train's bell.
CLUNK

"Twilight*"
...
*Note: Actually it's the "tase kare"-line from the poetry that was recited on page 33. As explained on page 34 "tase kare", meaning "What's there?", turned into "tasogare", which stands for "twilight", and it's the latter that fits in this concept

Autumn,
15 years old...
...is
taking
away
the one
I love...

It's not true that...
...separation makes a person grow.

Tsukishima Fuji, age 15

I get many letters that say "I want Ann and Daigo to do well, but I like Fuji-kun, too." How about you? He's blunt when he talks, but he's not honest sometimes. He acts after he observes the circumstances.

Sands' Chronicle

Tsukishima Shiika, age 14
cute, noble, and a good girl
she must have a lot to think
about, though- I hope I can
write about it later

Sunadokei by Hinako Ashihara

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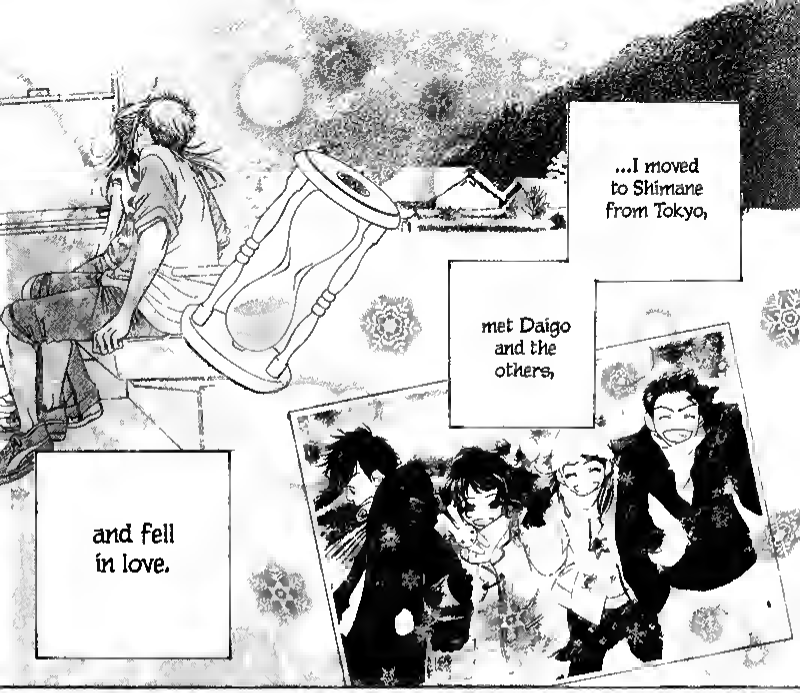
Spring, 16 years old: Cherry Blossoms

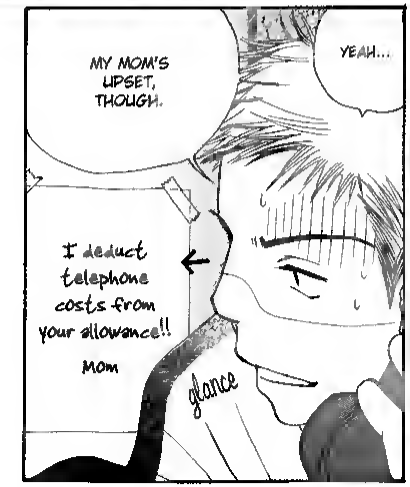
Daigo,
how are you?

I got accepted into a high school in Tokyo.
It's been half a year since I left Shimane.
Entrance Ceremony
This season is...
one of spring, one full of hope.
Entrance Ceremony
But...
It's a spring without you.

Congragulations on your entrance
I DON'T FEEL LIKE CELEBRATING
CLUNK
ANN?
MURMUR MURMUR
I'M SAD...
SOB
sob sob sob
NEW FRESHMEN, PLEASE GO TO YOUR CLASS ROOMS!!
URGH...
AH, IT'S YOU!
ANN!!
YOU CAME BACK TO TOKYO?!
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS, RIGHT?!
Or more?!
AH
ASA-CHAN?! EDACCHI?! MICCHON, TOO?!
WOW, we are all going to the same school!!
AHHH!
Im so glad!
Anyway ...

YEAH!
ASA-CHAN, EDACCHI, MIC-CHON, AND I ALL WENT TO THE SAME ELEMEN-TARY SCHOOL!!
I'm doing fine.
WE WERE VERY CLOSE
I MOVED TO SHI-MANE WHEN I WAS IN SIXTH GRADE
AND THEY ALL WENT TO DIF-FERENT MIDDLE SCHOOLS
SO, WE WERE KIND OF SEPA-RATED FOR A WHILE BUT
YOU'RE DOING WELL WITHOUT ME.
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE THEM AGAIN AT HIGH SCHOOL!!
I'm so glad!!
When I was twelve, in the win-tertime...
YOU...

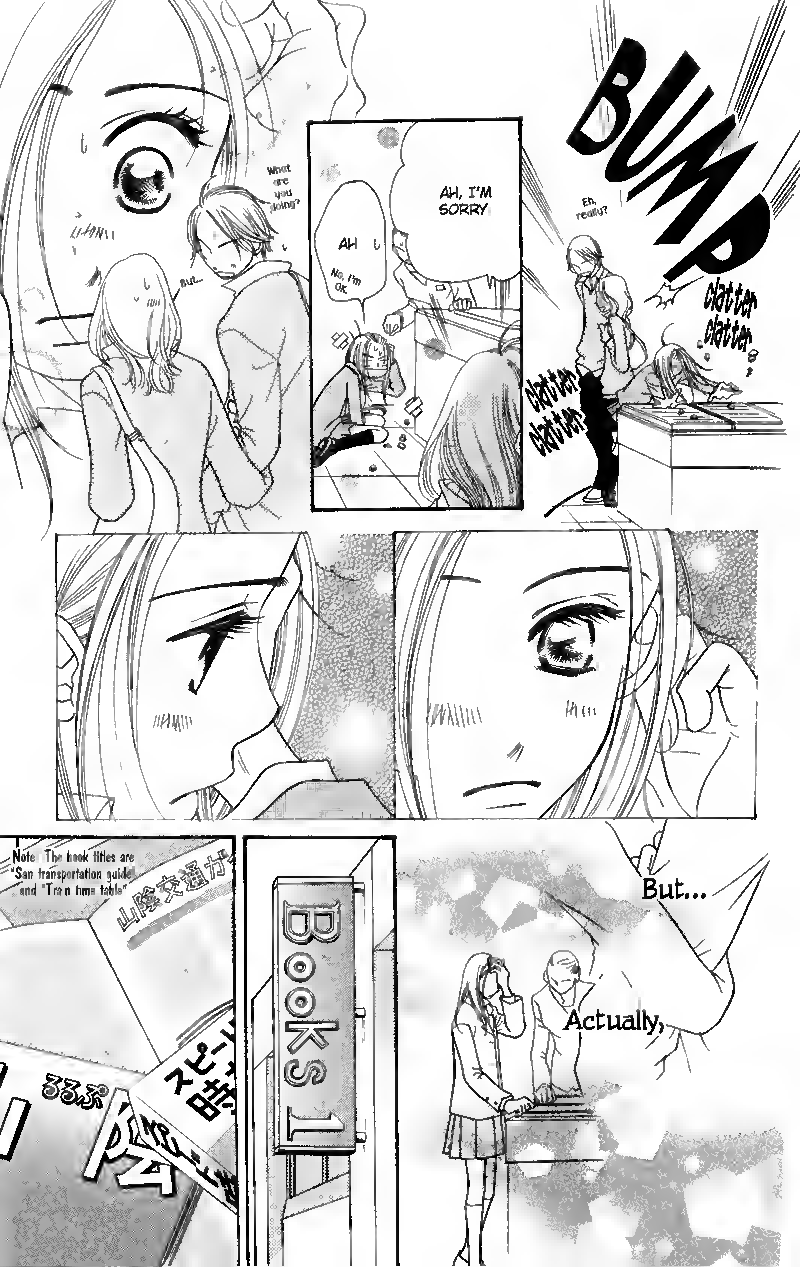

...I moved to Shimane from Tokyo,
met Daigo and the others,
and fell in love.


YEAH...
MY MOM'S UPSET, THOUGH.
I deduct telephone costs from your allowance!!
Mom
glance

Now,
I have a so-called "long distance relationship."
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
HUH?
SINCE YOUR LAST TELEPHONE CALL

URGH
You have to pay back your debt this year!! -Dad
Turn off lights often!
energy efficient family
AND...
I STARTED WORKING PART-TIME.
At least once in a while
I'LL CALL YOU BACK, THEN
OH, NO YOU'RE IN A WORSE SITUATION THAN I AM
EH?
Reina?
I DON'T GET MUCH ALLOWANCE, SO...
AH, AND...
YOUR BIRTHDAY IS COMING
Reina, how long have you been talking?
I know!
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT?

Soon...
9
10
11
my Birthday
16
17
18
19
JUST WITHIN THE SHIMANE KATE
WOW!
WOW!
I don't know what you want.
I'LL BUY IT AND SEND IT TO YOU.
Don't ask for the impossible
JUST USE COMMON SENSE.
AH.. ANYTHING?
WHAT DO I WANT...?
HONK
HONK
HONK
...I'll be sixteen.
Accessories
SOMETHING CUTE LIKE THESE
For a simple hair clip?! Um...
6,500
THAT'S EXPENSIVE.
AH.
CLOSET ORGANIZERS. NON-STICK FRYING PANS AND FLOOR MATS.
I HAVE MANY...
thinking thinking
Mainly daily necessities.


BUMP
What are you doing?
But...
AH, I'M SORRY
AH
No, I'm OK
Eh, really?
clatter clatter
clatter clatter
Note: The book titles are "San transportation guide" and "Train time table"
Books
But...
Actually,

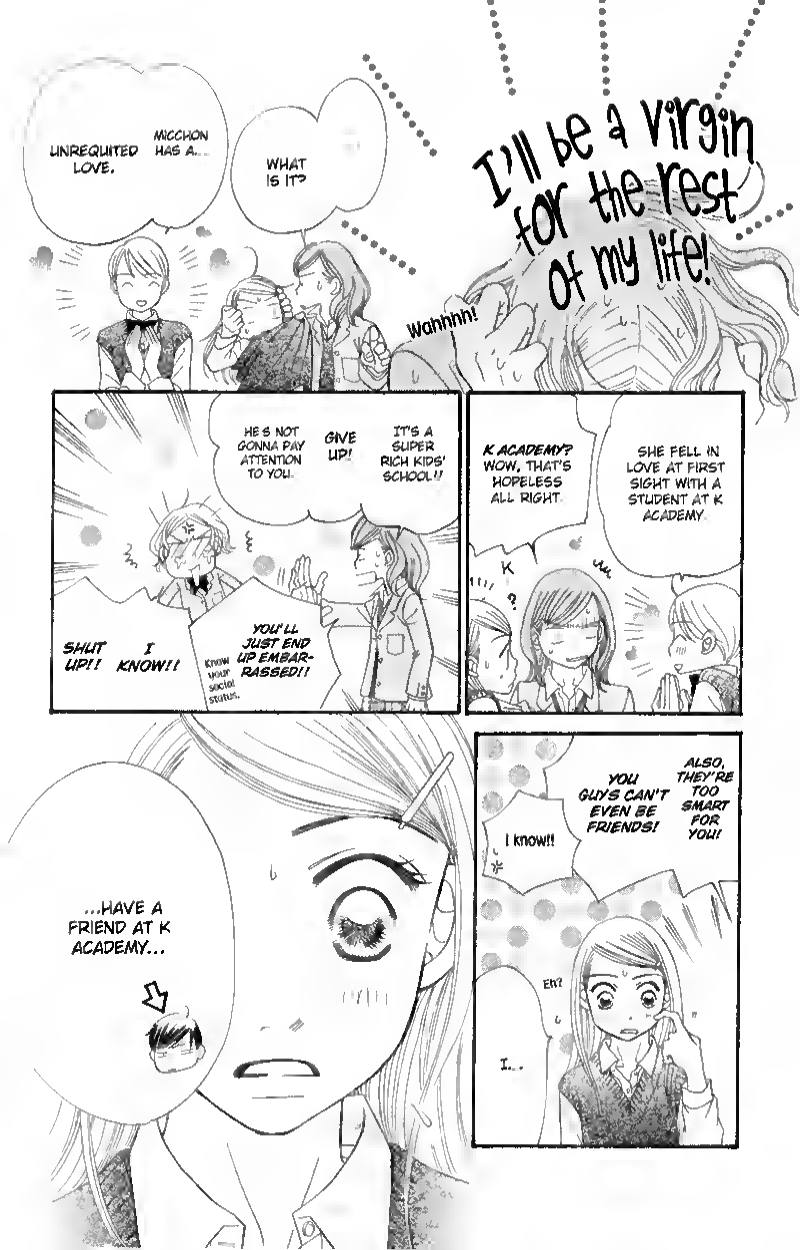
Haneda airport to Izumo
26,500円
Tokyo to Okayama Station
20460円
Yikes!
So expensive!
26,500 YEN* BY AIR-PLANE?!
*About $228.
EVEN BY TRAIN, IT'LL STILL COST ME 17,000 TO 18,000 YEN*
*About $146-$155.
NOTE: TRANSPORTATION GUIDE
LET'S SEE.. TOKYO AND SHIMANE.
ANN?
SHUT
OH, NO IT'S FAR MORE EXPENSIVE THAN A REGULAR GIFT...
40,000 TO 50,000 YEN* FOR A ROUND TRIP TICKET.
*About $344-$430.
ARE YOU GOING HOME?
YEAH YOU, TOO?
NO!
YOU BOUGHT THEM ALL?!
That's a lot!!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE
EH?
OH, FUJI-KUN!

...my friend from Shimane,
and he's an heir of a local noble family...
Fuji-kun is...
Rich brat.
YEAH....
AH...
I FOUND A LOT OF STUFF I WANTED.
He came to Tokyo this spring just like me.
IT'S OK.
K ACADEMY, RIGHT?
For rich kids.
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO YOUR NEW SCHOOL?
IT'S HOPELESS
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
HAVE YOU MADE SOME FRIENDS?
I'm not a kid anymore, you know
FUCK
HMMM.
SAN IN IZUMO MATSUE
JR
TRAIN TIME TABLE
AREN'T YOU GOING TO BUY THEM?
NO! I CAN'T AFFORD THEM

I THINK THE CHEAPEST WAY TO GE THERE IS TO TAKE A NIGHT BUS ON THE "TOKYO AND SHI-MANE" ROUTE...
It leaves from Shibuya station
bus fare yen
Shibuya Mitsue Izumi One way
Shibuya station
JR Mitsue Station
Tamane (Highway)
Amamichi (Highway)
JR Izumi station
IT'S 24,000 YEN* FOR A ROUND TRIP BY BUS...
*About $206
IT'S STILL EXPEN-SIVE...
For us, that is...
I SHOULD GET A JOB, TOO...
Actually...
HE KNOWS...
高速バスのりば
Highway Bus Stop

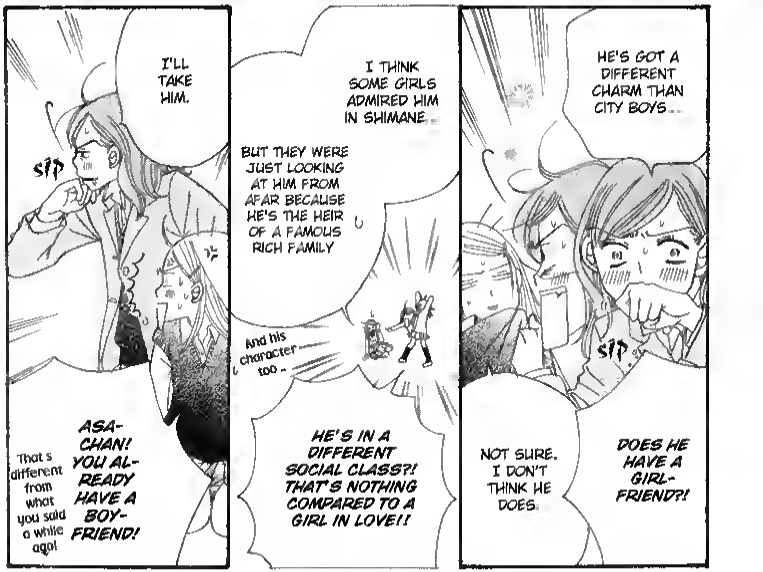
...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN HALF A YEAR...
I just want to see him.
I don't want any gifts
I DON'T KNOW WHEN I CAN SEE HIM AGAIN.
I COULDN'T GO BACK FOR NEW YEAR'S OR SPRING BREAK.
"I LIKE SOMEONE ELSE...!"
HE'LL TELL ME,
Ah!
EVENTUALLY IT'LL BE NORMAL FOR US TO NOT SEE EACH OTHER AND THEN...!
...WANT THAT!!
I DON'T ...

WHACK
SHUT UP!
Be quiet when eating
But...
A "LONG DISTANCE" RELATION-SHIP SOUNDS GOOD
YEAH
YOU FEEL REFRESHED EVERY TIME YOU SEE HIM.
IT BECOMES ANNOYING IF YOU SEE HIM EVERYDAY, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LIKE HIM!!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU, ASA-CHAN
That's my experi-ence
But Asa-chan you change your boyfriend often.
Noopie Noopie Noopie
What did you say?
HOW IRRITAT-ING!
A LONG DISTANCE RELATION-SHIP?
SO WHAT?
No...
YOU JUST WANT TO SHOW OFF!
AS...
FOR ME...
I'LL BE IN A ONE-SIDED LOVE FOR-EVER!


I'll be a virgin for the rest of my life!
UNREQUITED LOVE.
MICCHON HAS A...
WHAT IS IT?
Wahhhh!
HE'S NOT GONNA PAY ATTENTION TO YOU!
GIVE UP!
IT'S A SUPER RICH KIDS' SCHOOL!!
SHUT UP!!
I KNOW!!
YOU'LL JUST END UP EMBARRASSED!!
KNOW YOUR SCHOOL STATUS.
K ACADEMY? WOW, THAT'S HOPELESS ALL RIGHT.
SHE FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT WITH A STUDENT AT K ACADEMY.
K
?
...HAVE A FRIEND AT K ACADEMY...
I know!!
YOU GUYS CAN'T EVEN BE FRIENDS!
ALSO, THEY'RE TOO SMART FOR YOU!
EH?
I...

FLASH
TWITCH
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!!
K Gakuin
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE COUNTRY SIDE!!
WHAT? HE MUST BE A CRUDE GUY, THEN.
WHICH ONE IS THE RICH BOY FROM SHIMANE?
Wow K Academy students!
HE MUST BE UNCOMFORTABLE AMONG THOSE SOPHISTICATED CITY BOYS...
HELP OTHERS IN LOVE!!
HE'S NOT FRIENDLY ENOUGH TO...
K Academy
IF YOU'RE A FRIEND, DO SOMETHING!!

GRAR
HE'S SO COOL!!
WHO WAS THAT?!
ANN?
What are you doing here?
Hey.


I'LL TAKE HIM.
sip
That's different from what you said a while ago!
ASA-CHAN! YOU ALREADY HAVE A BOYFRIEND!
I THINK SOME GIRLS ADMIRED HIM IN SHIMANE...
BUT THEY WERE JUST LOOKING AT HIM FROM AFAR BECAUSE HE'S THE HEIR OF A FAMOUS RICH FAMILY
And his character too...
HE'S IN A DIFFERENT SOCIAL CLASS?! THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO A GIRL IN LOVE!!
HE'S GOT A DIFFERENT CHARM THAN CITY BOYS...
sip
NOT SURE. I DON'T THINK HE DOES.
DOES HE HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?!

Ah.
Thanks.
THIS IS FROM THE TEACHER FOR THE PARENTS MEETING.
TSUKISHIMA.
I'M BREAKING UP WITH HIM RIGHT NOW!
Wah! Wah!
STOP JOKING AROUND!
NI...
EXCUSE ME!!
dash
EH?
IS HE MICCHON'S LOVE?!
IS THAT HIM?

SHE DID IT WITHOUT OUR CONSENSUS...
Friend?
WE'RE GONNA HAVE ANN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY NEXT SATURDAY AT ANN'S PLACE!!
PLEASE COME!!
AND WITH YOUR FRIEND HERE, TOO!!
SORRY IT GOT WEIRD...
IT'S FINE.
I DIDN'T EXPECT A BIRTHDAY PARTY—
Ha ha...
Hmm, are you from M school? A coed school is nice
Oh, girls.

SO, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT?
BUT, YOUR BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP
...
NO.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING
DON'T BRING ANYTHING.
HOW ABOUT YOU FUJI-KUN? TOKYO LINE?
OK, THEN, I'M GOING THIS WAY
YOU'RE WITH YOUR RELATIVES, RIGHT?
Yeah
See you.

I don't need any thing.
I just want to see you.
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
mumur
Thank you.
IT'S KIND OF
NOISY IN THE BACK-GROUND
I heard a voice.
YEAH I'M USING THE PHONE AT WORK
SO, TELL ME QUICKLY
grocery store, taking inventory
CALL ME MORE INSTEAD
HEY,
I DON'T WANT ANY GIFTS
I WANT THAT.
...
click
DAIGO,
WHAT DOES SHE WANT?
Expen-sive stuff like that...
IT MUST BE A BRAND NAME BAG OR SOME-THING. HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS NOWADAYS...
HEY.

I want to see him.
I WANT TO INCREASE MY HOURS.
CAN I WORK AT NIGHT?
I want to touch him.
I want to talk to him in person.
I want to be touched.

I miss him.
11
12
My Birthday
18
19
Happy Birthday!!
WHOA ...!
ANN HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
WOW!
Yay, perfect!
LET'S DECORATE BEFORE THE BOYS COME
I GOT A LOT OF STUFF
AND SAKE!!
SOME FRIED CHICKEN ..
THERE ARE FROM MY MOM!
THUMP
THUMP
YOU ALL STARTLED ME

Spring, 16 years old: Cherry Blossoms

For me, "Somei Yoshino"* represents the time of cherry blossoms because this event overlaps with my memory of the entrance ceremonies, so I feel nostalgic when I see cherries?

From my place to the station, there are many cherry trees along the street and I think that it'd be spectacular if I took my time to look at them when they are in full bloom...

But, last year, I was too busy, so I quickly passed by them several times while riding a bike. But, this year, I went back to my hometown and missed them when they were in full bloom...

In this episode, Ann, Daigo and Fuji finally become high school students. I'm planning to have all four seasons (spring, summer, autumn, and winter) for all of them at age 16. Please bear with me

*Note: There are several kinds of cherry blossom and "Somei Yoshino" is the most common one in Japan

I DID THE STRAW-BERRIES!!
I did, I did.
I PUT THE CREAM ON IT.
NOM NOM
EDACCHI MADE THIS? YOU'RE KIDDING!
WOW!
Ann, happy birthday and welcome back.
Tada!
Ann, happy birthday and welcome back!!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Welcome back!
WE'RE SO HAPPY WE GOT TOGETHER AGAIN!
8
おかえり！
AND WELCOME BACK.

I'M SORRY, EVERY-ONE
I TALK ABOUT SHIMANE ALL THE TIME
drip
AH SHE CRIED
She cried.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? FOR A GIRL, LOVE IS MORE IMPOR-TANT THAN FRIENDS!
Unbelievable
BUT I WAS.
I AM VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU ALL AGAIN. I'M VERY HAPPY. REALLY.
ASA-CHAN!
Is that so?
YOUR BIRTHDAY GIFT FROM ME!!
HERE!
condems
use them soon.
Heh heh!

NO!
NOT YET!
I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA DO IT SOONER OR LATER
Don't pretend to be innocent
Land!
spit out
"Not yet..."
Don't talk like that in front of boys!
Stop it!
glug glug
glug
Ah.
Thr ow
Throw!
old
rustle
RRRRRRR
rushe
HEY!!
ANN-CHAN, PHONE
HMM, ANN-CHAN HAS A BOY-FRIEND...
What about the other three girls?
Ah..
I don't have one
I'm cured!
Me, too!
Thr ow

WHO ARE YOU?
I'LL KILL YOU.
HELLO ANN-CHAN IS BUSY RIGHT NOW...
Hiccup...
What the heck. I'll pick it up
click
Drunk
BOOOK
BOOOK
WHAAA
I don't want it!
I THINK IT'S
YOUR BOY-FRIEND.
Sorry if I made him mad.
PALE
ANN-CHAN
EH?
DAIGO?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
SORRY I COULDN'T SAY IT TO YOU IN PERSON.
ANN?
HAVING FUN?
Who was that?

NO . I'M HAPPY THAT YOU CALLED ME.
very happy
6
sob sob
MUSH BACK
I'M ABOUT TO TAKE A NIGHT BUS AND GO TO TOKYO INSTEAD!!
HUH?
*Note: Hachiko is a dog statue.
INSTEAD OF A GIFT,
AH, AT HACHIKO*?
I'LL BE AT SHIBUYA STATION TOMORROW MORNING!
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK!!
YIKES!
THE BUS IS LEAVING!
V-ROOM
EIGHT O'CLOCK !!
TOMORROW!!
SEE YOU THEN !

Tomor-
row...
USE THEM.
Ahhhh!
I said I don't need them!!
That's not good! You should use condems!
That's not what I'm saying!!
Wah
Wah!
I can see him again.

I can see him...
Let's do this again
Bye bye
...
ANN, GOOD FOR YOU.
she looks happy...
AH.
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE IN FULL BLOOM.
how beautiful
Would you like to go to a movie?
Eh?

It's late this year.
Let's have a party to watch the flowers tomorrow.
HELLO, FUJI-KUN.
Want some dinner?
I'M SORRY I'M HOME LATE
I'M HOME
Cousin, Mariko, 18.
HEY
MARIKO-SAN.
CLICK
FUJI-KUN!

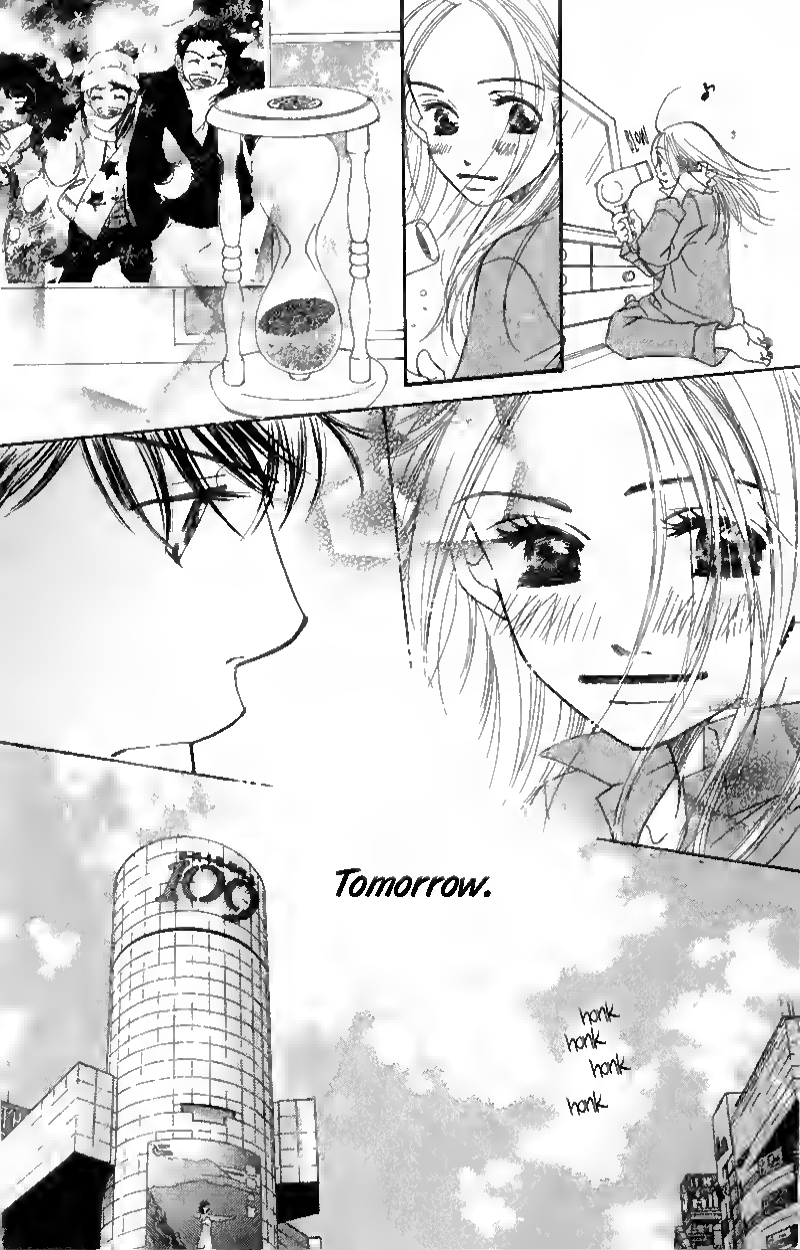
THIS...
CAME TO YOU THIS MORNING
Tokyo
c/o Mogami
Tsukishima
Fuji-sama
4 10 8 12
(OYOG)
IT'S THAT GUY, ISN'T IT?
Takasugi Kyoichi
ARE YOU GOING TO MEET HIM?
IT'S GOOD THAT I GOT IT, BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE HAD SEEN IT...?
How would you explain it to them?
THANK YOU.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU GOT IT.
IS HE...
Takasugi Kyoichi
...REALLY YOUR BIOLOGICAL FATHER..?

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MADAM."
"SHE'S TAKING IN A YOUNG MAN EVERY NIGHT."
"HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMOR THAT MASTER FUJI MIGHT NOT BE OUR MASTER'S CHILD?"
MAYBE...
...THAT "RUMOR AMONG THE SERVANTS,"
THE AGE AND APPEARANCE OF THE MAN WHO I SAW IN MY MOTHER'S BEDROOM,
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF MEETING HIM ONCE I GOT TO TOKYO.
I CAN THINK OF NO ONE ELSE WHO I CAN ASK ABOUT THESE THINGS
MY MOTHER'S RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS BACK THEN,
AND WHAT SHE WROTE IN HER DIARY AND ADDRESS BOOK...
Takesugi Kyoichi

EVEN IF YOU WERE HIS CHILD,
YOU'RE CERTAINLY TSUKISHIMA'S BIOLOGICAL SON ON THE PUBLIC RECORDS
THEN, WHAT?
YOU'RE THE LEGITIMATE HEIR OF THE TSUKISHIMA FAMILY, AND EVERYONE ACCEPTS THAT!!
I'M NOT PLANNING ON DOING ANYTHING
NO ONE FROM THE TSUKISHIMA FAMILY TELLS ME THE TRUTH
SO, I NEED TO MEET HIM AND ASK ABOUT IT
My blood type is the same as my mother's, so that wasn't enough evidence.
BUT...!
I JUST WANT TO KNOW FOR MYSELF.

I FEEL UNSETTLED.
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.
IT'S ALWAYS
FELT LIKE I'M FLOATING IN THE AIR... IT'S UNCOM-FORTABLE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
WHILE I WAS BEING SPOILED AS AN HEIR OF A NOBLE FAMILY,
IN REALITY,
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHOSE CHILD I AM.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW
WHOSE BLOOD IT IS THAT IS FLOWING INSIDE OF ME,
HOW I WAS BORN,
AND WHO I AM.

IT'S A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE ONE CAME FROM, RIGHT?
TOMOR-ROW?
April 12th, 2 pm
za 2 chome cafe I
I'll be waiting ther
Takasugi
April 12th, 2 pm
ginza 2 chome cafe Iris.
I'll be waiting there.
Takasugi


Tomorrow.
honk
honk
honk
honk

Curled eyelashes
I GOT UP EARLY.
I THINK THE BUS HAS ALREADY ARRIVED AT THE STATION. SO IS HE HERE YET?
Looking around
ATTACK ATTACK ATTACK
THUMP THUMP THUMP
IS MY HAIR OK?
IS HE GONNA NOTICE THAT I PUT A LITTLE BIT OF MAKE UP ON?
I curled my eyelashes.
EH?
AM I DRESSED WEIRDLY?
Uhmm, maybe I am.
Oh, no.
STIFF
I am getting very nervous!!!
THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP
"A 'LONG DISTANCE' RELATIONSHIP SOUNDS GOOD. YOU FEEL REFRESHED EVERY TIME YOU SEE HIM."
THUMP THUMP
I see!!
This is the "long distance magic" that they were talking about!
Edachi-teacher!!
THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

I remember when we just started going out.
There's tolerance even among idiotic couples.
Really?
NO, I JUST GOT HERE.
SORRY DID YOU WAIT LONG?
and...
I got nervous when his hand touched mine,
HI
HI
but I hesitated at the same time.
I was happy to see him every morning,
Hachiko
BANG BANG BANG BANG
ANN?
Ah...
...my first kiss...

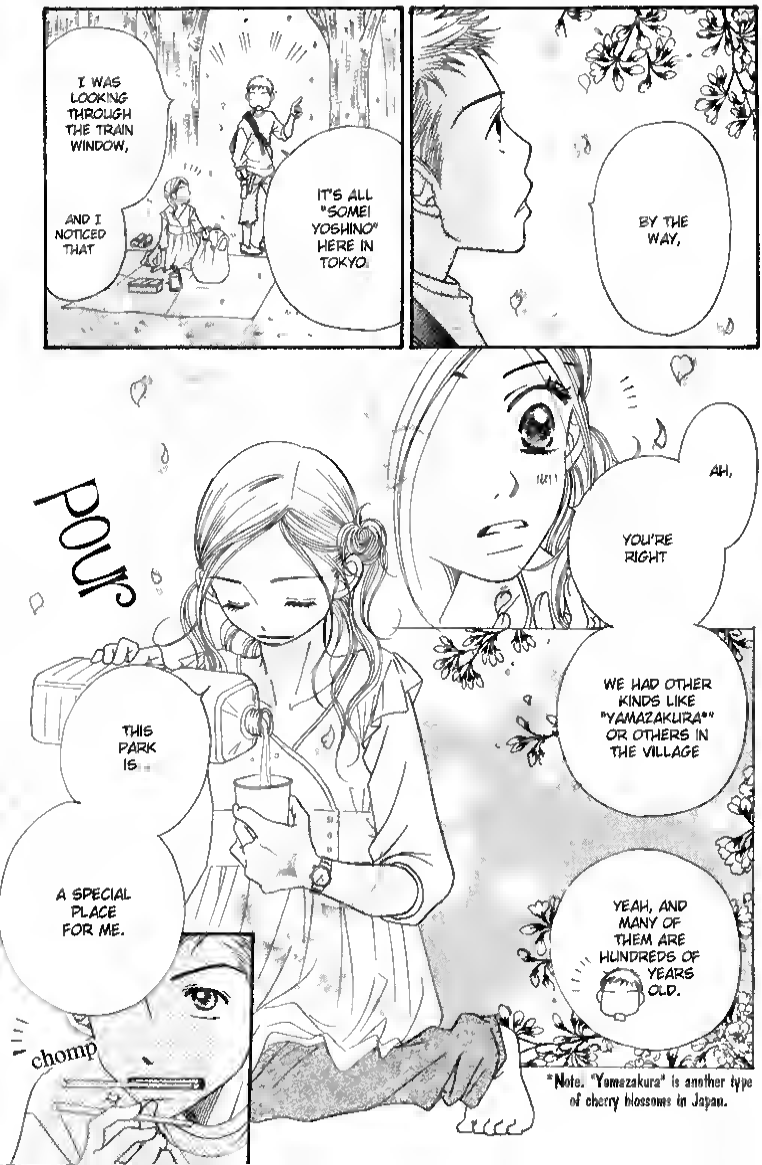
THUMP
Whoa!
What are you doing?
LONG TIME NO SEE!
H...
HELLO!
Daigo!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Bad hair day
?
Because...
← Everyday clothing
Because...
Because...
...he's really sparkling!!!
So...
dazzling !!
DID YOU CHANGE YOUR LOOK?
NO, I DIDN'T...
UH... DID YOU KIND OF
GET ANY TALLER?
NO.

NO, I GOT FAT.
DID YOU LOSE WEIGHT?
...GOTTEN PRETTIER.
Eh neh...
What a stupid couple we are.
SHE'S KIND OF...
A LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP IS GREAT!!
na na
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO? WHERE? WHERE?
SHIBUYA? ODAIBA? TOKYO TOWER? WE CAN GO WHEREVER YOU WANT!
WELL,
I'M NOT HERE TO GO SIGHTSEEING.
Ah, yeah...
AH
THEN...

DAIGO,
HERE, THIS WAY!!
Hurry!
Wahaha
OUCH
Hey!
BUMP
Sounds good
OH
I know a good spot.
LET'S GET SOME LUNCHES AT A CONVENIENCE STORE AND GO SEE THE FLOWERS!
I'M NOT USED TO IT!
This way!
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE!
hold
URGH!
Tch. Why don't you apologize when you bump into me?!
...
Stare

NO ONE'S...
...PAYING ATTENTION TO OTHER PEOPLE.
NO ONE IS WATCHING US!
I CAN'T HOLD HANDS IN PUBLIC!!
What do you mean by "urg?!"
SLAP
TOKYO IS A...
...
I SEE
SHIBUYA IS
HERE
"COUPLE-FRIENDLY CITY."

We're gonna take the train
This is weird
GOOD SPOT, ISN'T IT?
RUSTLE
WOW
NOT TOO SHABBY
It's not so crowded either


I WAS LOOKING THROUGH THE TRAIN WINDOW,
AND I NOTICED THAT
IT'S ALL "SOMEI YOSHINO" HERE IN TOKYO.
BY THE WAY,
AH,
YOU'RE RIGHT
WE HAD OTHER KINDS LIKE "YAMAZAKURA"* OR OTHERS IN THE VILLAGE
YEAH, AND MANY OF THEM ARE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD.
POUR
THIS PARK IS...
A SPECIAL PLACE FOR ME.
chomp

*Note. "Yamazakura" is another type of cherry blossoms in Japan.

I WANTED...
...TO COME HERE WITH YOU SOMEDAY.
MY FAMILY USED TO COME HERE OFTEN
BOTH MY DAD AND MY MOM...
THERE'S A LOT OF FUN MEMORIES I HAVE FROM HERE
AH!
HUGE SHIITAKE MUSHROOM!!
I hate them!
Anyway...
HEY, CAN I SWAP THEM WITH THE BAMBOO SHOOT YOU HAVE?
Heh heh
I'M HAPPY TO HAVE DONE SO TODAY.
HERE,
OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

HUH?
AH...
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE, YOU KNOW.
BUT, YOU SAID NO ONE'S WATCHING US

I MISSED YOU.
Don't run!
Mama!
Ahhh!
Ah ha ha ha ha ha!
CAN I SAY SOMETHING?

WHY DID YOU COME TO SEE ME?
SHOOT
CLUNK
SUNTORY WHISKY
HIBIKI
DIDN'T YOU THINK THIS WOULD TROUBLE ME?

I'M NOT...
...EXPECTING ANYTHING FROM YOU,
BUT I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE.
HUH?
FREEZE
DID MY MOTHER HAVE YOUR BABY?
YEAH.
I TOLD HER TO HAVE AN ABORTION, THOUGH.

YOU'RE A MAN. YOU UNDER-STAND ME.
I COULD ASK FOR BLACKMAIL MONEY, YOU KNOW
I WAS ABOUT 20 OR SOME-THING
WHEN SHE SEDUCED ME
SHE WASN'T DOING WELL WITH HER HUS-BAND, SO I WAS THERE JUST TO SATISFY HER DESIRE
DROP
WHAT A SLUT...
SHE WAS
JUST LIKE THAT
IS IT NORMAL TO CONFESS SO EASILY?
HOW'S YOUR MOTHER?
Stereotypical

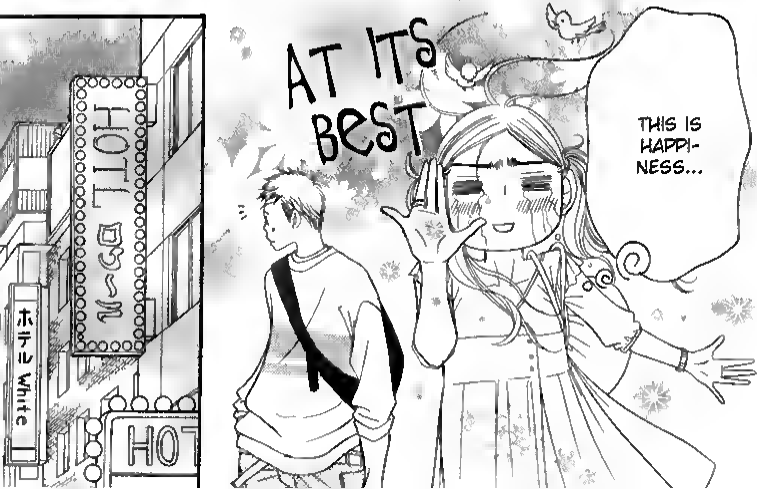
WAIT, I'M GOING, TOO
AH, YOU'RE GOING?
clunk
...
2,450 YEN* PLEASE
*About $21
HEY, YOU!
WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT ME?
From 10,000 yen.*
*About $86.
click chirrr
LETTER?
DID YOU READ THE LETTER?

Grab
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE OF 7,550 YEN.*
thud
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OH, YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, HUH. WELL...
ANYWAY, IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
*About $65
THANKS.
For the taxi fare
HONK HONK HONK
SLIDE
Thank you very much.

I FEEL NAUSE-ATED.
Takasugi Kyouichi
"HOW I WAS BORN,"
"WHOSE BLOOD IT IS THAT IS FLOWING INSIDE OF ME,"
"I JUST WANT TO KNOW."
"AND WHO I AM."
DRIP
NO.

R渋谷
AH,
IT'S CUTE!
actually...
I wanted him to deny it.
...
I'LL BUY IT FOR YOU
EH?!
NO. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA MONEY, DO YOU?!

You want me to put it on your finger?
Whoosh
HERE!
300-
I CAN PAY THAT MUCH...
Thank you
It's 300 yen.*
AH
*About $2.60
How trouble-some..
Where?
On my marriage finger!


HOTEL Mega
White
HOT
AT ITS BEST
THIS IS HAPPI-NESS...

HOTEL
THEY ARE SO BOLD!!
And still in their school uniforms!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
AH,
WELL...
MURMUR
WHAT A GREAT CITY.

I....
.. HAVE TO GO.
...
WHAT TIME DOES YOUR BUS LEAVE?
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.
SO, I NEED TO GO NOW
"USE THEM!"
Asa-chan...

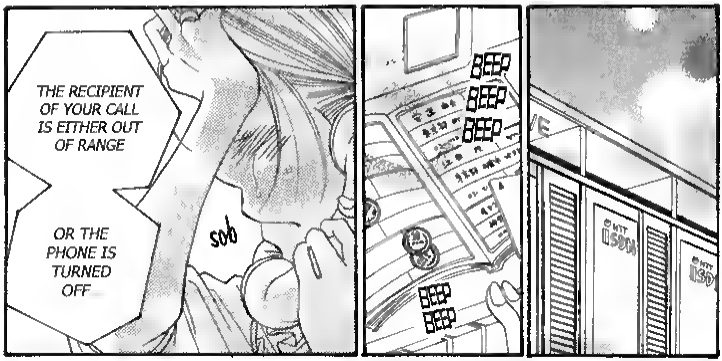
We don't even have time to hesitate.
OK.
YEAH.
I can't wait for it.
IN AUGUST ...!
I'LL DEFINITELY GO BACK TO SHIMANE WITH DAD FOR THE BON FESTIVAL*!
SEE YOU.
YEAH.
THANKS! IT WAS FUN!

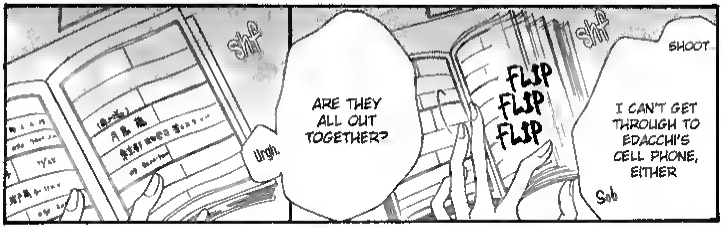
*Note: Bon or Obon Festival is a Japanese Buddhist holiday to honor the departed spirits of one's ancestors

I'M GONNA WORK HARD AND CALL YOU.
PLEASE GET IN.
CLACK
VROOOM

Hi no he
Thank you.

...this city...
I hate...
...after all.
What's with that girl?
Ha ha ha
How weird...


THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR CALL IS EITHER OUT OF RANGE
OR THE PHONE IS TURNED OFF
sob
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP


Shit
ARE THEY ALL OUT TOGETHER?
Urgh.
FLIP FLIP FLIP
Shit
SHOOT
I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO EDACCHI'S CELL PHONE, EITHER
Sob

Sob
HELLO, IT'S MOGAMI.
CLICK
HELLO
RING RING RING RING RING
(最上様方)
TSUKISHIMA FUJI
ESS Tokyo To Setagaya Ku Tonoroki
TEL 03- 82XX-74
NAME

FUJI-KUN!
OVER HERE!!
Drunk...
YIKES!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF A RESI-DENTIAL STREET?!
WATCHING THE FLOWERS AT NIGHT.
There's no traffic here, though.
WHAT IF SOMEONE SEES YOU?!
And your underage drinking?!
NO ONE'S WATCH-ING ME, ANYWAY...
OPEN
GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG
GLUG GLUG GLUG

OPEN
THUD
CAN I HAVE SOME?
300ml
CHERRY TREES IN TOKYO ARE HARD-WORKING.

BAKE
THE BEST IN JAPAN
GREAT! YOU ALL ARE GREAT!!
EVERY YEAR,
THEY BLOOM WITHOUT FAIL.
EVEN THOUGH THESE TREES ARE SURROUNDED BY CONCRETE,
"SOME! YOSHINO" IS THE SAME EVERYWHERE
IN TOKYO OR IN SHIMANE
ALL THE SAME THROUGHOUT JAPAN!
GLUG GLUG
GLUG GLUG GLUG
THEY ARE JUST CLONES.
HUH?!
NO WAY
CHUNK
BUT, UNLIKE OTHER CHERRY TREES, THEY DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO CROSSBREED
SO, THEY'RE ARTIFICIAL COPIES
They all have the same DNA of course.
OPEN
"DRY"

THEY ARE ALL SEX-LESS.
You mean biologically right?
IS THAT CREEPY...
OR RATHER INNOCENT?
HM...
I see...
You're drinking too much.
...
Sex...
WHAT ABOUT DAIGO?
YOU WENT TO SEE HIM, RIGHT?
YEAH...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.
Are you upset?
IT'S NOTHING.

CHERRY TREES IN TOKYO, CHERRY TREES IN SHIMANE,
"SOMEI YOSHINO," OR "YAMAZAKURA,"
WE WENT TO WATCH THE FLOWERS
IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.
NO MATTER HOW THEY WERE BORN...

...BEAUTIFUL.
I STILL THINK
THEY ARE ALL...

THANKS FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY.
I feel better now.
MY DAD'S GONNA WORRY
I'LL BE GOING HOME NOW.
ANYWAY,
EH?
ANN!
EH?!
I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO GIVE IT TO YOU YESTERDAY.
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY GIFT.
HERE

I THOUGHT ..
rustle
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.
Wow, I'm surprised!
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
WOW!
BECAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR HAIR STYLE.
...YOU MIGHT LIKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT ..
IT SHINES OF EXPENSIVENESS!
I MEAN, IT DEFINITELY HAS TO BE EXPENSIVE!
IT WAS CHEAP.
BUT,
WASN'T IT EXPENSIVE?
I don't know if I should accept it.
...
GOOD.
How cute!
The hair comb is so cute!
Wow. It's very pretty.

.. OK.
I'm very happy
THANK YOU SO MUCH
SO, TAKE IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT IF YOU DON'T TAKE IT.
Seriously, it wasn't expensive
I CAN'T TRUST WHAT HE CONSIDERS "CHEAP."
Ugh
Try it on.

YOU HAVE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
HUH?
CHERRY BLOSSOMS
IN YOUR HAIR.
HOW IS IT?
THANK—
EH?
AH
Cherry blossoms?

GOOD NIGHT.

It was quiet.
A very quiet...
...spring night.

Thanks to my readers,
it looks like it's gonna be a long
series. Thank you so much.

Best wishes for 2004
see you in volume 3

Or on Betsucomi.

03 11 20 Hinako Ashihara

砂時計
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time letter

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